

## **Event Recap: Miller Cattle Co. Pasture Walk, Eros, LA**

On Friday, Sept. 19th, 13 producers met at the Miller Cattle Co. in Eros, LA (Northeast LA) to tour Bubba and Amy Miller's cattle and sheep farm. The farm is newly established as grazing lands, being wooded with pines until around 2020. The family cut the timber and ground stumps in 2020 and added a perimeter fence, a beautiful large fishing pond, and an in-ground city water system for the livestock.

After learning more about Louisiana GLCI, the couple wanted to host a pasture walk to share what they've learned that works in Louisiana, and hopefully save some other producers from making the same mistakes they have along the way.

Their electric fence system utilizes ground rods set in the drip line of the shed on the property, keeping them well grounded for a high charge to hold their cattle and sheep together on the 80 acres. Bubba uses one Cyclops charger, and one 9 wire brand poly braid wire at about knee height to hold his 11 cattle and 22 sheep together, moving across... (Read all of the Millers' tips on the BLOG)



# **Upcoming LGLCI Events**

Oct 29-30: Pasture Condition Score Training | Ruston, LA

Dec 5: Louisiana Forage Conference | Alexandria, LA

Jan 21-23: Noble Business of Grazing 3 day course | Bossier, LA

More info and registration for all events at <u>LouisianaGLCI.org/Events</u>

Tara Morris (education@louisianaglci.org or 225-721-1313)

\*Sponsorships available for all events



## **Louisiana Forage Conference**

Join us in Alexandria on December 5 for a full day of networking, learning from experts, and more! For a full agenda and list of speakers, <u>visit our website</u>.

#### **Speaker Topics:**

- The Land is the Canvas, the Cattle the Paintbrush
- How we use Grazing Cattle to Manage our Forage Production
- Effect of Adopting Multiple Management Technologies on Cattle
- Performance in a Small Grazing Beef Cow-Calf System
- Grazing for Soil Health
- Producer Panel on Grazing Management Systems

Tickets are \$25 (lunch included). Pre-registration is required – RSVP today!

# More Info on Forage Conference





## **Louisiana Grazing Photo Contest**

Submit your best photo from your farm!

We would love to feature photos from Louisiana's grazing lands, forages, hay fields, and more. Winning photos will be printed on posters to display at the Louisiana Forage Conference on Dec. 5th, 2025. Winners will receive a prize and be recognized at our annual Forage Conference Dec. 5th.

Contest is open to amateurs, pros, and anyone in-between!

Submit Your Photos!

**New Roots in the Boot Episode** 



Guest: Wallace Mills
Cattle farmer in Pioneer, LA | LGLCI Board Vice Chair



In this episode, Tara and Caitlin speak with Wallace Mills about the unique way he structures his operation, how he markets his cattle, and what he's planning to plant for fall.

Wallace, along with his father and brother, operate a cattle farm in Northeast Louisiana. Tune in to learn how they differentiate themselves from the typical cow-calf operation.

<u>Click HERE for the episode</u>, also found on Apple Podcasts and Spotify. Search for "Roots in the Boot" podcast.

Listen Here

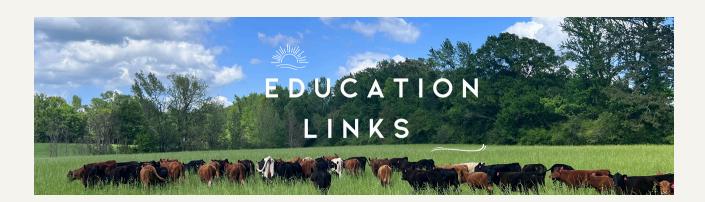
## [External] Job Opening: LA Ecological Forestry Center: Grazing and Longleaf Pine Southern Technical Coordinator

The Louisiana Ecological Forestry Center and National GLCI have a grazing-related job opening. We are helping advertise for it. Click the button below for more info.

More Info + Application

# **<u>Upcoming External Events:</u>**

- <u>Louisiana Grass Roots film screening</u> | Baton Rouge | Oct 4, 2 pm
- <u>Miller Cattle Co. Homestead Fair</u> | Eros | Oct 11
- Quail Forever Field Days | Morehouse Parish (Oct 14) | Lincoln Parish (Oct 15)
- <u>LSU AgCenter Beef, Forage, & Wildlife Field Day</u> | Idlewild Research Station | Nov 1



In this job, I often get to interact with other graziers and experts extraneous to the deep south and outside of Louisiana. It's become obvious during my multi-state interactions that there are areas within a farming operation that need to focus on regional information, particularly education, forage decisions, and physical resources.

For example, it's almost October 15th, which we all know is planting season for ryegrass. It's interesting to interact with other folks from across the country who are interested in promoting "cover crops." Many don't understand that planting annual ryegrass is already an annual activity for graziers in the deep south. Also, Dr. Ed Twidwell, forage expert and board advisor, has mentioned that wheat has limited success in Louisiana, compared to being a staple in more western states.

Stockpiling is another issue that is regional for us. It sounds good on YouTube videos made in other states. But many local producers and experts explain that stockpiled forages, in our Louisiana climate, only have nutritive value for a couple months until the winter rainy season and humid cold sets in. At that time, it degrades to being a subpar forage.

And let's talk about winter gain and growth in what I call the non-fescue belt. We simply have little to no fescue grasses, which is a blessing and a curse at the same time. I saw an Arkansas farm that was doing great things with fescue. But, what they're doing with grazing fescue during winter grazing simply can't physically be accomplished here (if you are, please let me know!).

Very few have had any lasting success with legumes from drier regions, such as alfalfa. But, check out the below article about a farmer in Louisiana using peanuts as a hay crop as a promising alternative, learned from Georgia.

Allen Williams and many other experts are talking heavily about epigenetics. That's a big word for saying that animals and plants raised and bred in your environment, or one very similar to it, will thrive better than ones from other regions. For example, animals purchased from western states and brought east may not be able to eat enough or process our watery, washy forages, and may struggle the first year or two in our hot, high-humidity summers.

All this just shows the importance of local educational opportunities. Although there's always something to glean from other regions, there may be higher productivity in visiting local farms or pasture walks, listening to education produced from farmers close to your region, and trying to source certain items from the deep south region. We are not Texas, Idaho, Wyoming, or even Missouri- we are the diverse, hot, wet, and highly cultural state of Louisiana.

What else are you seeing as a region-specific need? Hit reply and let me know.

#### **Educational Resources:**

- "Rebuilding Regeneratively" article by Hugh Aljoe, Noble Research Institute
  - (Push the pencil before pushing cow numbers)
- "<u>Perennial peanut hay emerges as premium forage option</u>" A farm in Louisiana growing forage peanuts. Published by Farm Progress.
- Working Cows podcast episode 458 was recommended to me. Dr. Allen Williams on <u>The Connection between Epigenetics and Profitability</u>

-Tara Morris, Executive and Education Director

## What are you planting?

We want to hear from you. What are you planting this fall for winter forages? Respond to the survey on our Facebook page!







## **Get Involved with Louisiana GLCI**

We are a producer-led and producer-focused 501(c)(3) non-profit that promotes, inspires, and teaches conservation-focused and profitable grazing practices across Louisiana through farmer-to-farmer education and networking.

You can become involved by being a financial supporter or event sponsor, an education provider, a volunteer, or just spreading the word about our events and education.

> See more at the <u>Get involved</u> section on the website. Tara Morris, Executive Director 225-721-1313

If you ever find good resources to share, feel free to send them our way! -Tara Morris, education@louisianaglci.org

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